

# THE CAMPAIGN AT THE HOME OF LUCIUS ROBINSON.

## CHEMUNG COUNTY AROUSED

### Inside Facts as to the Democratic Split in Elmira.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Oct. 19, 1879. This is the home of Governor Robinson. In consequence intense interest is felt in the coming election by men of all classes. Elmira, too, is located in what is known as the "Southern tier," where enemies of Tilden and Robinson are understood to be numerous and influential. Among the more prominent of these enemies in Elmira are ex-Speaker Jeremiah Maguire and Stephen T. Arnold, the millionaire merchant, banker and real estate broker. In fact, a bitter anti-Tilden party has existed here for years. So far this party has not accomplished much. A struggle took place over the delegates to Syracuse, but the opposition to Robinson was able to control only one ward. The fight is now continued with earnestness, and will be carried nearly to the polls. The Maguire-Arnold people, reinforced by Congressmen Walker, have taken hold of the Kelly boom, as in the Canal Ring districts, and will do all they can to further the interests of the great Tammany bolter. The Kelly-Haskin-Potter-Moloney combination is expected here on Monday night, and great preparations are on the carpet to give this republican side show a warm welcome. William H. Moloney, for years assistant clerk to the New York Board of Aldermen, and general "business agent" for that body when "democratic" matters are to be handled, acts in the capacity of manager to this latest dramatic combination of "Canal Ring-democratic-republican" politicians.

He goes ahead of the "circus" and arranges for the Greek fire, blue lights, cannon, etc. He also engages the meeting hall and gives him the "bolters" performance. I met Moloney to-day in the Rathbone House on his advance mission. "How is the circus, Billy?" I asked. "Fine. The thing is rolling along beautifully." "You are evidently a success in your new calling as theatrical manager?" "Perfect. I think I will take exclusively to the stage after this." "How many votes will Kelly get in the State?" Moloney paused before answering. Then a roguish smile stole over his expressive and classic features (the gentleman said to have been refused a ticket for Manhattan Beach last summer). "It will be a tight race," he said, "between Kelly and Cornell. Robinson is now out of the question."

SOUNDING THE DEPTHS. It is not a difficult matter for us to understand here the causes and character of the Kelly "boom" in Syracuse, Rochester, Oswego and other places where canal interests predominate. Neither does it require a political sage to fathom the adroit warring of republican intrigants in working up so-called "sentiment" and enthusiasm in such districts. When the facts are known the canvases on this side has not such a rosy hue. I took considerable pains in Elmira to get at the real causes of dissatisfaction in the democratic ranks in this locality—to ascertain whether Messrs. Robinson and Tilden were right or whether Messrs. Maguire, Arnold & Co., while claiming to be democrats, had sufficient cause for bolting the regular nomination of their party. I will endeavor to give both sides to this controversy. Governor Robinson is undoubtedly held in high respect by the masses of the community in Chemung county. For over thirty-five years he resided among them. I have not yet heard the faintest whisper against his personal character. Now, let us see what is the cause of this anti-Robinson anti-Tilden feeling.

FIRST SPLIT—THE ELMIRA REFORMATORY. One of the finest and best disciplined penitentiaries in the State is the Elmira Reformatory. The erection of this institution was first intrusted to a commission appointed by Governor John T. Hoffman in 1870. This commission consisted of Messrs. C. C. B. Walker (now Congressman), Stephen T. Arnold, Abraham H. Miller, Frank H. Atkinson and Amos Pillsbury. While this commission had charge of the work it appears that matters did not get along all right. A committee of the Legislature was appointed in 1873 to examine into the mode of doing business. A new commission, consisting of the following gentlemen, was designated in 1872:—William Dundas, F. H. Atkinson, S. C. Taber (now a law partner of Mr. Maguire), J. D. Baldwin, S. T. Arnold, C. C. B. Walker, C. D. Chapman, E. S. Brickbee and A. H. Miller. The report of the investigation contained many criticisms and recommendations. Among the recommendations were:—That the contractors for some of the work were George B. Lord (son of ex-Senator Jarvis Lord), Wheeler H. Bristol, formerly State Treasurer, and several others not known to the Legislature. The result of this investigation followed in the abolition of the commission, a supervising architect being substituted in its place. Governor Dix selected a gentleman named by the Speaker, State Comptroller, to fill this position. Mr. Thomas was, as I am informed, an excellent selection, the work going on under his management with rapidity and economy. In 1872 the first year of Governor Tilden's term an application was made at Albany for the removal of Mr. Thomas. This application was backed up, as alleged, by the old commission members, particularly by Mr. Jeremiah Maguire, the Speaker of the House.

One does not like to remove a good official for political reasons, was Governor Tilden's reply to the application. This opened the fight, and it has been kept up with intensity ever since. The bitter attacks made upon Governor Tilden by the Speaker, State Comptroller, on the floor of the Assembly during the winter of 1875 will now be recollected. Of course those gentlemen deny that any such opposition to the Governor was the cause of an open break, but the Robinson people with whom I conversed here within the past two days have given me clear proof as to the truth of the matter. The result of the investigation followed in the abolition of the commission, a supervising architect being substituted in its place. Governor Dix selected a gentleman named by the Speaker, State Comptroller, to fill this position. Mr. Thomas was, as I am informed, an excellent selection, the work going on under his management with rapidity and economy. In 1872 the first year of Governor Tilden's term an application was made at Albany for the removal of Mr. Thomas. This application was backed up, as alleged, by the old commission members, particularly by Mr. Jeremiah Maguire, the Speaker of the House.

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is with him. Besides, I think that he will attract a large proportion of the State and county democratic party. At least a number of them have told me here within the past few days that they would do so. The Kelly vote cannot amount to more than 250 in the county. It will come from men that would not be with us no matter who was nominated at Syracuse. The Robinson vote is estimated at 1,000. I think, too, Chemung county will pull a much larger vote than was cast in 1876. Our enemies are now present, and engaged in preparing for the Kelly meeting of Monday night next. I have no doubt it will be large, as the republicans will go, and a good many attend the Kelly meeting out of mere curiosity. Such assemblies do not indicate what the vote of districts will be; they are simply political bubbles of color and noise. I am under the impression that the last days of the canvass must greatly strengthen Governor Robinson. The sober second thought is always the winner. Democrats who have been worked up or misled by this bolt will then have an opportunity of looking upon the situation calmly and will not be inclined to throw away their votes for the purpose of revenging petty spite and thus leading themselves to a movement having for its object the disruption of the democratic State and nation. "Have the Kellyites much of an organization here?" "Well, they held a meeting the night before last. Several of them were decidedly tame affairs. Several unauthorized names I am also informed were published as connected with the movement. "The religious issue is dragged in here somewhat, is it not?" "A respectable Irishman, and one of considerable intelligence, brought out today a copy of the paper of the 18th inst. of Kelly placed on one of its pages." (Mr. Hill here showed me a copy of the paper in question. Half of one side was taken up with a list of names, while the reverse side were portraits of two Catholic clergymen.) "Don't you think this tampering with religion will do more to harm than good?" "I should think so, among intelligent members of his faith."

There is still a feeling of opposition noticeable to Governor Robinson among some of the working classes as to his conduct in calling out the militia here to protect private and public property during the canvass. "That feeling, I think, has almost entirely died out. These honest laborers now appreciate the necessity for the act, and, instead of opposing him, are in a promptness in protecting their wives, little ones and property from threatened attack. Nobody can tell where a riot will stop when it breaks out, and this is the case with the Kellyites. The idea that the slightest dissatisfaction exists among republicans who may favor Robinson is laughed at by Mr. F. Hill, who on the reverse side were portraits of two Catholic clergymen."

Mr. C. P. Bacon is political editor of the Elmira Gazette, a well conducted and influential journal of this city. The gentleman agrees with Mr. Hill in his opinion of the situation of the County, and places the vote of the Arnold-Maguire or Kelly-Tilden faction at as low as 150 votes. "That is about all Arnold and Maguire can count on," he said. "Notwithstanding the fact that he can handle millions of dollars. These people have been against us for years past, but their influence is very small indeed. It is in the canal and reformatory light over against Mr. Robinson. We propose to stand by our colors, and the struggle will not end with the election."

WHERE WILL THE IRISH GO? In order to investigate the statement, freely given out here at other points, that a large part of the Irish element of Chemung county is in favor of Kelly, I talked with several representatives of that class. I must emphatically state that such statements are entirely groundless. The allegation was pointed out by an intelligent Celtic named Mr. John Doherty, a business man of Elmira, in the expression, "I am sorry that the Irish are so easily misled by a democratic bolter for the purpose of electing a republican Governor." They thoroughly understand the situation in this respect, and know that if they vote for Kelly they are voting for a man who will assist Cornell to step into the shoes of Lucius Robinson. Mr. Doherty also called attention to the fact that the Irish vote in the County of Chemung has since 1875, when he fell out with Mr. Tilden; that he dropped over from one side to the other and attended the first Greenback Convention in this State, which delivered a very soft money harangue.

There are about two thousand Irish votes in Chemung county, and Mr. Doherty said that he did not think that more than one hundred of them will be foolish enough to support Kelly. "You do not think that the political influence of Maguire, Arnold & Company?" "Not as they stand to-day. In the fall of 1875, after Mr. Maguire's break with the leaders of his party in the County of Chemung, he was virtually abandoned by his place a gentleman," said Edmund Miller. This clique did all they could at the time against us. When Mr. Tilden was elected, he was elected by a majority of between eight hundred and nine hundred, a larger majority than was ever before given for a Legislative candidate in the district. When Mr. Tilden was elected, he was elected by a majority of between eight hundred and nine hundred, a larger majority than was ever before given for a Legislative candidate in the district. When Mr. Tilden was elected, he was elected by a majority of between eight hundred and nine hundred, a larger majority than was ever before given for a Legislative candidate in the district.

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her of people have also come into my office, whom I assured the same way, and from whom I received the same response. "The Kelly movement is strong here, I think?" "I think so. He will be sure to cast his vote on Monday night. If the anti-Tilden democrats here, however, think there is a chance for the election of Robinson many of them will be sure to cast their votes for him. They will do anything to defeat the present Governor. Personally I have nothing against Mr. Robinson, but I am utterly opposed to his policy. I think that he has made a great many mistakes; for instance, the appointment of John F. Smith as Superintendent of Institutions was a mistake. It was a great error and error and error. The Governor cannot trade with his political enemies. I feel that he would be sold, and that the great part of the interest of the Insurance Department from that time forward would be for the republican party. The Governor after that saw the error of his ways and tried to get out of Smith, but did not succeed, as you know."

"You don't see any way, then, for the Robinson people to succeed?" "No, I have heard that they inaugurated a movement to buy up a majority of the greenback vote, but they will not succeed in this. Such efforts by the party are entirely unjustified. The leaders have been dealt with generally in such cases. The rank and file get wind of the corrupt interference and become indignant, voting right opposite to the desired way. They do not believe in a few men pocketing the spoils. Some of them are in favor of an equal division should anything of that sort be attempted."

Mr. Maguire spoke eloquently in this strain for over half an hour. I have given the substance of his remarks, and I am sure that the anti-Tilden side will be able to show that the anti-Tilden side, using arguments with his usual forcible and caustic manner. THE ARNOOT ROOM. Mr. Stephen T. Arnold, the leading democratic spirit in opposition to Governor Robinson to whom we have already alluded, was seen by me here, and he said that he had no chance whatever of election; that Kelly will secure a large vote, which must result in giving the county and State to him. MR. C. S. FAIRMAN, principal editor of the republican paper in Elmira, was equally sanguine with Messrs. Maguire and Arnold as to the result of the gubernatorial contest in Chemung. He thinks that Kelly will receive at least 1,000 votes in the county, and that he will carry the State. He also considers that about one-half the greenback vote of last year—some 1,500—will be cast at the next election in the same locality. A large number of the anti-Tilden democrats here, however, think that the slightest dissatisfaction exists among republicans who may favor Robinson is laughed at by Mr. F. Hill, who on the reverse side were portraits of two Catholic clergymen."

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